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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 181610Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERIN 6918

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, BE, CGEN
SUBJECT: BELGIAN/GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 6893; B) BERLIN 5759; C) BERLIN 5653

1. CONSISTENT WITH A PATTERN OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION AMONG WESTERN POWERS ENGAGED IN CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR BIHIN BRIEFED THE CHARGE DECEMBER 17 ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SECOND ROUND OF BELGINA/GDR TALKS. HE HAD PROVIDED A SIMILAR BRIEFING TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THE DAY BEFORE.

2. BIHIN SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS LASTED FIVE DAYS. EXCEPT FOR THE EAST GERMAN DEMAND THAT THERE BE A DIFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN THE AGREEMENT ALL ISSUES WERE SATISFACTORITY RESOLVED. GDR NEGOTIATOR KLOBES TOLD HIS BELGINA COUNTER-PART IN A PRIVATE MEETING THAT THE GDR'S NEED TO INCLUDE THIS DEFINITION WAS "PRIMARILY POLITICAL." THE GELGIANS STATED IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WAS NOT BELGIAN PRACTICE TO INCLUDE SUCH A DEFINITION,
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NOR HAD IT BEEN FOUND NECESSARY TO HAVE A DIFINITION

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OF NATIONALITY IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION OF CONSULAR
RELATIONS.

3. ASIDE FROM THE NATIONALITY ISSUE, THE BELGIANS HAD
FOUND THREE OTHER TOPICS TO BE SOMEWHAT STICKY:
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES; NOTIFICATION AND ACCESS
FOR PERSONS ARRESTED OR APPREHENDED; AND OTHER ESTABLISH-
MENTS (THE EAST GERMANS WANT TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN
ANTWERP). ALTHOUGH KLOBES MADE EFFORTS TO GIVE THESE
QUESTIONS A POLITICAL FLAVOR AND THEREBY MAKE THEM
MORE COMPLICATED, IN THE END THEY WERD
RESOLVED. BIHIN SAID THAT THE ONE OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN
CASE OF INTEREST TO THE BELGIANS HAD BEEN DANGLED BEFORE
THE NEGOTIATORS AS A PRIZE FOR CAPITULATION ON THE
NATIONALITY ISSUE.THIS TACTIC NOT ONLY FAILED, BUT
GREATLY ANNOYED THE BELGIANS.

4. AMBASSADOR BIHIN CONFIDED THAT PRIOR TO THE SECOND
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS HIS EMBASSY IN BONN HAD OFFERED THE
FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY A "TRIAL BALLOON" INTENDED TO
BREAK THE IMPASSE ON NATIONALITY. THE BELGIANS SUGGESTED
THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO RECEIVE A LETTER
FROM GDR AUTHORITIES, WHICH THEY MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE, STATING GDR VIEWS ON NATIONALITY.THE FRG
HAD AN INITIALLY FAVORABLE REACTION, BUT ON EXAMINING
THIS PROPOSAL ASKED THE BELGIANS TO DROP IT. BIHIN
SAID THE IDEA WAS THEN ABANDONED.

5. AS TO THE FUTURE, BIHIN SAID VIRTUALLY ALL THAT
REMAINED FOR A THIRD ROUND WAS THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY.
NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED FOR THIS ROUND,BUT IT WOULD NOT
OCCUR BEFORE MARCH. IN THE MEANTIME, THE BELGIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER, HAVING CONCELED A PLANNED TRIP TO THE GDR IN
NOVEMBER DUE TO ILLNESS, WOULD BE VISITING EAST GERMANY
DURING THE SENCOND HALF OF FEBRUARY. BIHIN THOUGHT IT
LIKELY THE GDR REGIME WOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO OBTAIN
A BELGIAN CONCESSION ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. HE
SEEMED NOT ALTOGETHER CERTAIN THAT HIS MINISTER WOULD
HOLD OUT.

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6. THE CHARGE, AFTER THANKING BIHIN FOR THE SUBSTANCE
OF WHAT HE HAD SAID AND THE SPIRIT OF SUCH CONSULATATIONS,
NOTED THAT THE US THIRD ROUND WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD
IN WASHINGTON SOME TIME IN FEGRUARY.THE US POSITION ON
EXCLUDING A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY REMAINED FIRM..
AMBASSADOR BIHIN WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS, AND NOTED
THAT IN HIS DISCUSSION THE DAY BEFORE WITH THE FRENCH
AMBASSADOR THE LATTER HAD TOLD HIM THE SAME ABOUT THE

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FRENCH POSITION. GROVE

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